

for transplant from just over 10,000 individuals. In the same amount of time, we added 38,850 people to the list. These numbers illustrate the urgency behind this issue. Ten people die every day because there was no organ available for transplant. The single greatest barrier to saving lives with organ transplants is the scarcity of available organs.

I realize that we are at the end of session and the likelihood of these bills being enacted is minimal. But it is a crucial time to introduce these concepts and ask for support on this vitally important legislation. I am hopeful we can use this time between now and the start of the new Congress to build consensus on these initiatives. I want to gather opinions and expertise from my fellow members and the patients, organizations, and experts in their districts. The sooner we can get the ball rolling on this issue, the faster we will be able to save lives. We must act now to make progress on this heartbreaking inadequacy.

The problem is easy to define. There are simply not enough organs to meet the needs of the patients waiting for them on the transplant lists. The challenge before us is to maximize the number of available organs and to maximize the recovery of organs available for donation. When an organ becomes available for transplant, we must spare no resource to ensure that it is delivered to a patient in need. We can do this in three ways. We must first educate more people about organ donation and encourage them to become organ donors. HHS should be congratulated for their efforts in this regard. Next we must invest in research and resources for hospitals and medical schools to improve the success rates of organ donation and options available to those who are in need of organ transplants. Finally, we must make absolutely sure that no organ goes to waste. Currently only a fraction of organs available for donation are actually recovered and made available for transplant. That's where this legislation comes into effect.

Today I rise to introduce the Organ Coordination Improvement Act, which would dramatically improve the organ recovery rate. I asked the experts in hospitals and in organ procurement organizations what the single best thing Congress could do to assist with organ recovery efforts. The answer was simple: provide more staff in the hospital dedicated to this effort. This deceptively simple answer points to a greater truth. Only a very few hospitals and Organ Procurement Organizations actually have specifically trained and dedicated staff in the very setting that they are needed most—the front lines of our health care system. When those staff do exist, they make a dramatic difference. A pilot program through HHS to put specifically trained Organ Coordinators in hospitals in Maryland and Texas had a dramatic effect. In one year, Organ Coordinators more than doubled the recovery rate for organs. By placing Organ Coordinators in the hospitals, hospital consortiums or OPOs with the greatest potential for organ coordination, there is a tremendous opportunity to double the number of lives saved through organ transplants.

This legislation does just that. The bill provides grants to fund staff positions for Organ Coordinators. A person in this position would be charged with coordinating the organ dona-

tion and recovery efforts within a hospital, or in some cases, a group of hospitals.

Half of Organ Coordinators would be employed by hospitals and the other would be employed by Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs). Both hospitals and OPOs are leaders in organ recovery efforts and both should be involved in this process. To build on this positive partnership, a control board would be established to coordinate the activities of the Organ Coordinators. The control board would have representation from both the hospital and the OPO, irrespective of which entity received the grant.

By placing Organ Coordinators in the hospitals, hospital consortiums or OPOs with the greatest potential for organ coordination, there is a tremendous opportunity to double the number of lives saved through organ transplants. Hospitals and OPOs share an important goal and this bill will serve to augment local success stories and local partnerships that already exist in our communities.

The second bill that I am proposing is the Organ Donor Enhancement Act, which would establish a national living donor registry based on the National Bone Marrow Registry. Last year, 10,538 people made their organs available for transplants. Of these, 4,640 people were living donors. Last year there were 9,237 kidney transplants performed, 4,441 transplants from living donors. Clearly, organ transplants have progressed to the point where nearly 45 percent of all kidney transplants done in 1999 were from living donors.

Mr. Speaker, no longer must a patient on the transplant list wish for an organ to become available from a horrible accident. Now kidneys and livers may be transplanted from one person to another and we have an obligation to help save the lives of the more than 62,000 people waiting for them.

The National Bone Marrow Registry has operated successfully since 1986 by registering people who are willing to donate their bone marrow to save somebody's life. Sometimes these are family members, friends or even strangers who possess the courage and compassion to be a living organ donor. While maintaining the highest privacy protections for registered volunteers, doctors are able to search and locate potential organ matches. The sheer scale of a national organ registry will enhance the practice of organ transplantation with increased speed and efficiency that no other resource could offer.

The National Living Donor Registry aims to break down the largest barrier to organ transplantation. It increases the number of potential donors and establishes a mechanism for doctors to match organs to patients. Here in the shadow of the Capitol Dome, the Executive Director of the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium reports that more than 2 people a week contact her and inquire about becoming a living organ donor. Currently, living donors comprise 45 percent of all kidney transplants that are performed. The availability of living donors means particularly strong hope for liver and kidney transplants, especially because kidney patients make up two-thirds of the transplant wait list. The time is now for a voluntary, national list to enable these everyday heroes to become life-savers.

In the midst of a tragedy, an organ transplant can create something awesome. A trag-

edy can save a life. For grieving families, it can be consolation that death has not struck in vain, and that indeed, their loved one continues to give energy and life. For thank everyday heroes who seek to become living donors, their gifts are the greatest gift of all. It is wonderful that medical technology has brought us so close to the miracle of life through organ transplant. Transplants have been performed since the 1960's and are now performed for 11 organs. Just last year, new types of liver transplants were being performed.

We must work to maximize our resources and make the most efficient use of them. There is no doubt about the need for organs. The potential lives that could be saved should encourage us to work on these two pieces of legislation to increase the number of recoverable organs and maximize the potential of available organs.

Lastly, I must offer my gratitude to the numerous patients, doctors, hospitals, organ procurement organizations and other individuals who offered valuable feedback on these bills. Many people have already put much time and effort in assisting me with the best ways to address organ scarcity. They have provided invaluable assistance and counsel, advice and criticism, and I thank them for their help. I ask my colleagues and others interested in organ recovery, organ donation and organ transplantation to examine these bills and provide me with their comments.

It is my hope that by introducing these bills, more patients and professionals in the field will be inspired by these efforts to work with me. It is essential that they continue to be generous in their comments, opinions, questions, criticism, and ultimately, support. I welcome the response of my colleagues on these two bills and look forward to further discussion next session.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT EUGENE CANFIELD, DETECTIVE JOSEPH LOPEZ, AND POLICE OFFICER ANGEL MALDONADO, RECENT RETIREES FROM THE JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor three recently retired police officers, who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting Jersey City, New Jersey.

Lieutenant Eugene Canfield, Detective Joseph Lopez, and Police Officer Angel Maldonado retired on September 1, 2000, after exceptional careers as law enforcement officers. During their careers, these fine officers held one principle foremost in their minds: namely, that residents of Jersey City need and deserve a safe community.

Lieutenant Eugene Canfield began his career as an officer with the Jersey City Police Department on September 11, 1976. He is the recipient of two excellent police service awards and one police commendation. Lieutenant Canfield served in Operations (Patrol Division); Special Patrol Bureau; Central Communications Bureau; and the Field Leadership

and Training Unit. Lieutenant "Gene" Canfield was not only an exceptional police officer, but also a talented actor, playing Al Pacino's chauffeur in "Scent of a Woman."

Detective Joseph Lopez began his career as an officer with the Jersey City Police Department on September 11, 1976. He is the recipient of eight excellent police service awards, two commendations, the class "E" award, and a unit citation. Detective Lopez served in the East District Patrol; the Car Pound Administration; the Special Investigations Unit, the Auto Theft Squad, and the North District Detective Division.

Police Officer Angel Maldonado began his career with the Jersey City Police Department on February 23, 1981. He is the recipient of four excellent police service awards and two commendations. Officer Maldonado served in the Detective Squad; the Juvenile Bureau; the West District Patrol; and the East District Patrol.

I commend these officers for their courage and commitment, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring them today.

JERSEY SHORE HUMANITARIANS HONORED

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, the Jersey Shore Chapter of The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) held its 32nd Anniversary Humanitarian Awards ceremony. NCCJ is a national human relations organization with local chapters dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism. It promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

So it is with great pride that I congratulate the recipients of this year's awards for their outstanding community service to the Jersey Shore, much of which I represent in Congress. They include:

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus, founder of our Congressional Award, chairman and president of the N.J. Congressional Award Council, Naval Reserve captain and Special Assistant for Reserve Affairs to the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, and a pulmonary and critical care physician in Red Bank, N.J.;

Bahiyah Abdullah, director of Marketing and Membership for the Ocean County Girl Scout Council for the last 12 years and active in numerous civic organizations, including the NAACP, Ocean County Human Relations Commission and Jack and Jill of America;

Solomon S. Greenspan, managing partner of Rudolf, Cinnamon & Calafato, LLC. He is on the board of the Monmouth County Jewish Federation, and the Urban League and is a Councilman for the Township of Ocean. He is past president of the Monmouth County Jewish Community Center and United Way.

The following two physicians helped develop the Parker Family Health Clinic, a free health center on Red Bank's west side:

Dr. Eugene F. Cheslock, an internist, is executive vice president of Meridian Health Sys-

tem, Riverview Medical Center's Riverview Foundation. He is past president of the Monmouth County Cancer Society and has received prestigious awards from the Urban League and the Salvation Army, among others.

Dr. Timothy Sullivan, an otolaryngologist, is senior vice president for medical affairs at Meridian Health System, Riverview Medical Center. He is a member of the Boards of Trustees of Volunteers in Medicine and Rio Vista Equipo Medico. He also serves as co-leader of medical missions to Guatemala to provide medical care, including cleft palate surgery.

The Women's Center of Monmouth County has, for 24 years, provided invaluable services to families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and has received five major awards for its outstanding work. Anna M. Diaz-White, executive director and a staff member for 16 years, accepted the award on behalf of the Center. I congratulate Ms. Diaz White and all the staffers and volunteers who make the Center the valuable community asset that it is.

The Jersey Shore Chapter of NCCJ also applauded Anytown, NJ, a week-long program for high school students in which they break barriers, deal with biased behavior and develop an action plan to reduce prejudice in their hometowns.

I have worked with Dr. Arlinghaus for many years on the Congressional Award which seeks to encourage strong values and community service. Before that, he worked with the late Rep. James J. Howard, the original sponsor of the law enacting the Congressional Award program. Because of his association with an important Congressional initiative, I wanted to share with my colleagues a excerpts from his acceptance speech:

I submit the following excerpts from Dr. Arlinghaus's September 21 speech into the RECORD.

"It was many years ago this month that Joe Gouthro and I met the then Congressman Howard to describe to him a dream called the Congressional Award and ten years later it became a Public Law. Since that very humble beginning much has passed into our history. And from that very unique experience of working with Congress, I have observed many unique events and personalities and beg your indulgence to share a thought and a theme with you this evening.

"A new millennium has begun and our republic stands as what has been described as the world's indispensable nation. Two thousand years ago the Roman Empire in the western world occupied very much the same position economically, militarily and in the minds of those who lived then. The mythic story of the founding of the Roman Republic by the poet Virgil in the Aeneid emphasized one essential point, one essential virtue, one essential value. Aeneas was pious. He was humble before his 'gods' and from that piety flowed his strength and the future moral vibrancy of Rome. When Aeneas lost his piety, when Rome forsake that piety, when individual citizens abandoned that value, Rome was lost."

"... Like pious Aeneas we are warned by history how important these values are. Can we be successful in keeping our sense of Community or our sense of Justice without such values? Whether it be through the NCCJ or the Congressional Award or through the works of our fellow citizens: Bahiyyah

and Sol, Eugene and Tim, and the Women's Center, these values are self-evident and command our allegiance. Such values are at the heart of the wonderful acts of service of my more-than-distinguished co-recipients this evening. As Hans Kung the noted philosopher and moralist wrote "the will of the almighty is carried out through service to human beings." And as our Founding Fathers prayed: "We have given you a Republic. It is up to you to keep it."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I rise in strong support of the National Defense Authorization Conference Report H.R. 4205.

I would like to thank Mr. SPENCE, Mr. SKELTON, Subcommittee Chairs, Ranking Members, and of course Committee Staff for all the hard work that they put into reconciling the Defense Authorization Bill.

This year's Authorization Bill makes great strides toward improving Modernization, Quality of Life, and Military Readiness.

First, Military Health Care is getting on the right track, but we still have a lot of work to do to improve service to active duty and retired service members.

Second, Recruiting and Retention are showing signs of improvement, but will be a constant challenge during strong economies and changing demographics.

Although this committee has made significant improvements in quality of life benefits, I'm concerned that the junior ranks do not understand what these improvements mean to them.

According to a DoD survey of service members, basic pay is the number one reason to stay or leave the military.

But do they understand the value of their benefits, beyond take home pay, when they make their decision to leave?

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 4388, which provides service members information on their benefits, to including VA benefits, the value of those benefits, and how their benefits compare to civilian counterparts.

Given this information, I hope more may understand the grass is not necessarily greener on the other side and opt to make a career out of military service.

I thank the Committee for acknowledging the merits of this legislation by including reporting language in this bill requiring the Department of Defense to report on what the Department is doing in educating service members on the value of their benefits.

Third, I would like to commend the Committee on their work in improving R&D accounts, specifically Science and Technology.

R&D is the future of this Nation's defense. We should not shortchange our future to fund present day shortfalls. R&D is critical in maintaining the technological edge to combat the